Indian workers in Gulf countries

1825. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Indians that have been recruited through agencies to work in gulf countries and are denied protection of labour laws and plunged into violation of migration rules;

(b) the number of Indian migrants in the jails of Gulf countries including Oman's Sohar jail and the steps taken for their release as on today, category-wise;

(c) the details of such recruitment agencies/racket related violations and the action taken against them for the last three year, year-wise, category-wise; and

(d) whether there is any proposal to chalk out a comprehensive policy on migration for the benefit of Indians working in Gulf countries?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(d) There is not such proposal at present.

MoU with AAPI

1826. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) have been signed with the American Association of Physician of Indian Origin (AAPI) to improve the primary health sector in the country; and

(b) if so, the details of the MoU and by when it is expected to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) and (b) Yes. The objective of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) which came into effect from 7th January, 2006, is to promote, establish and operate primary health care projects in selected States of India. The knowledge, skills and resources of American Association of Physicians of Indian Origin (AAPI) will be harnessed to